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Lee

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(54) **AUXILIARY SHIRT CUFF**

(76) Inventor: **Daniel A. Lee**, 156 Flamingo Way Apt 03, Tallahassee, FL (US) 32304

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **2/60**; 2/59; 2/123; 2/124
(58) **Field of Search** 2/59, 60, 46, 123, 2/124

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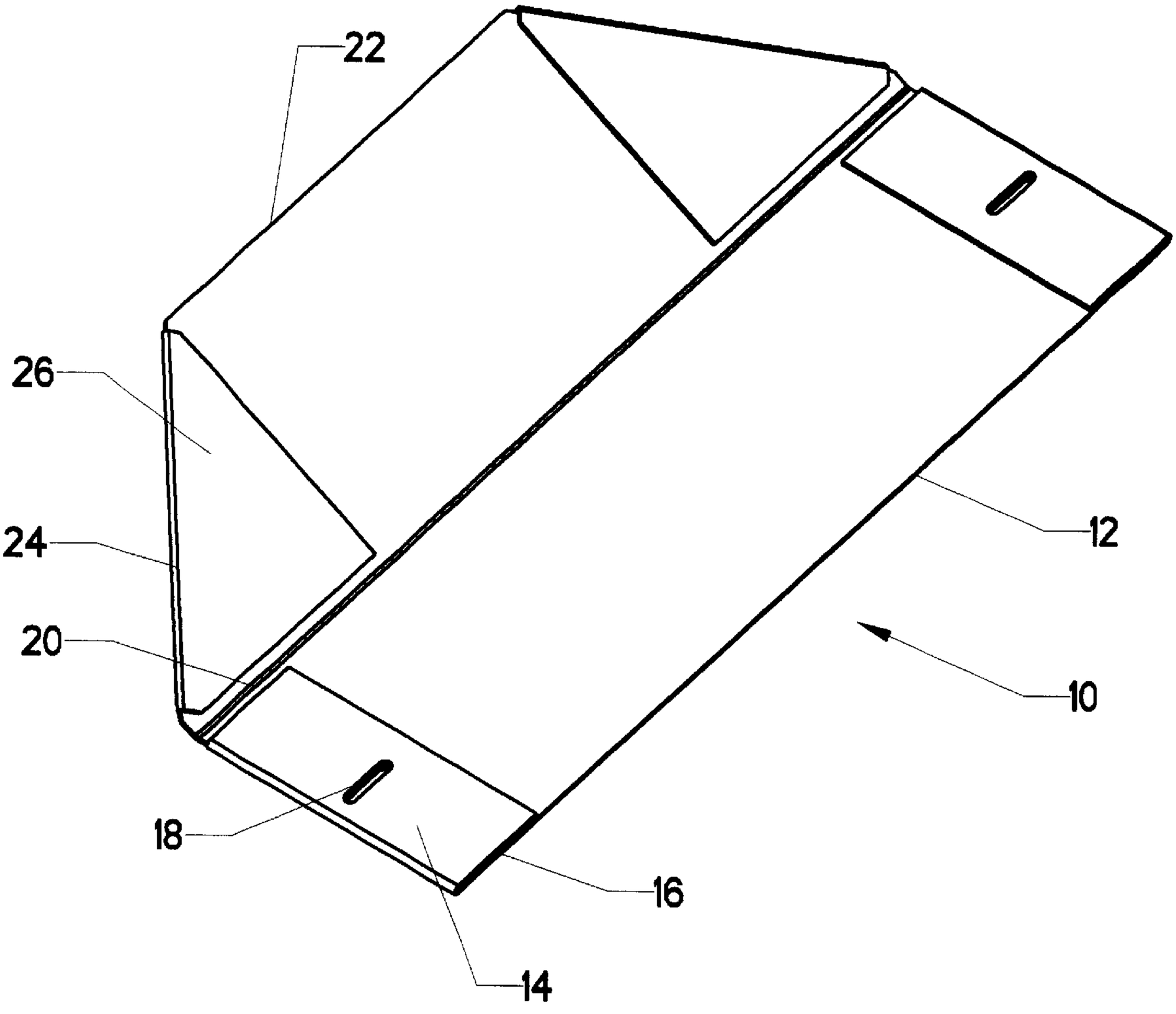
Primary Examiner—Gloria M. Hale
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—John Wiley Horton

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An auxiliary shirt cuff which can be applied to virtually any type of shirt. It does not require any modification to the shirt. When applied, the cuff gives the appearance of a high-quality french cuff shirt. It can be applied to a shirt already having a french cuff, or to one having a conventional button cuff. Different fabrics and colors can be employed to make the cuff, thereby creating a pleasing and fashionable contrast with the fabric and color of the shirt to which the cuff is applied.

4 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



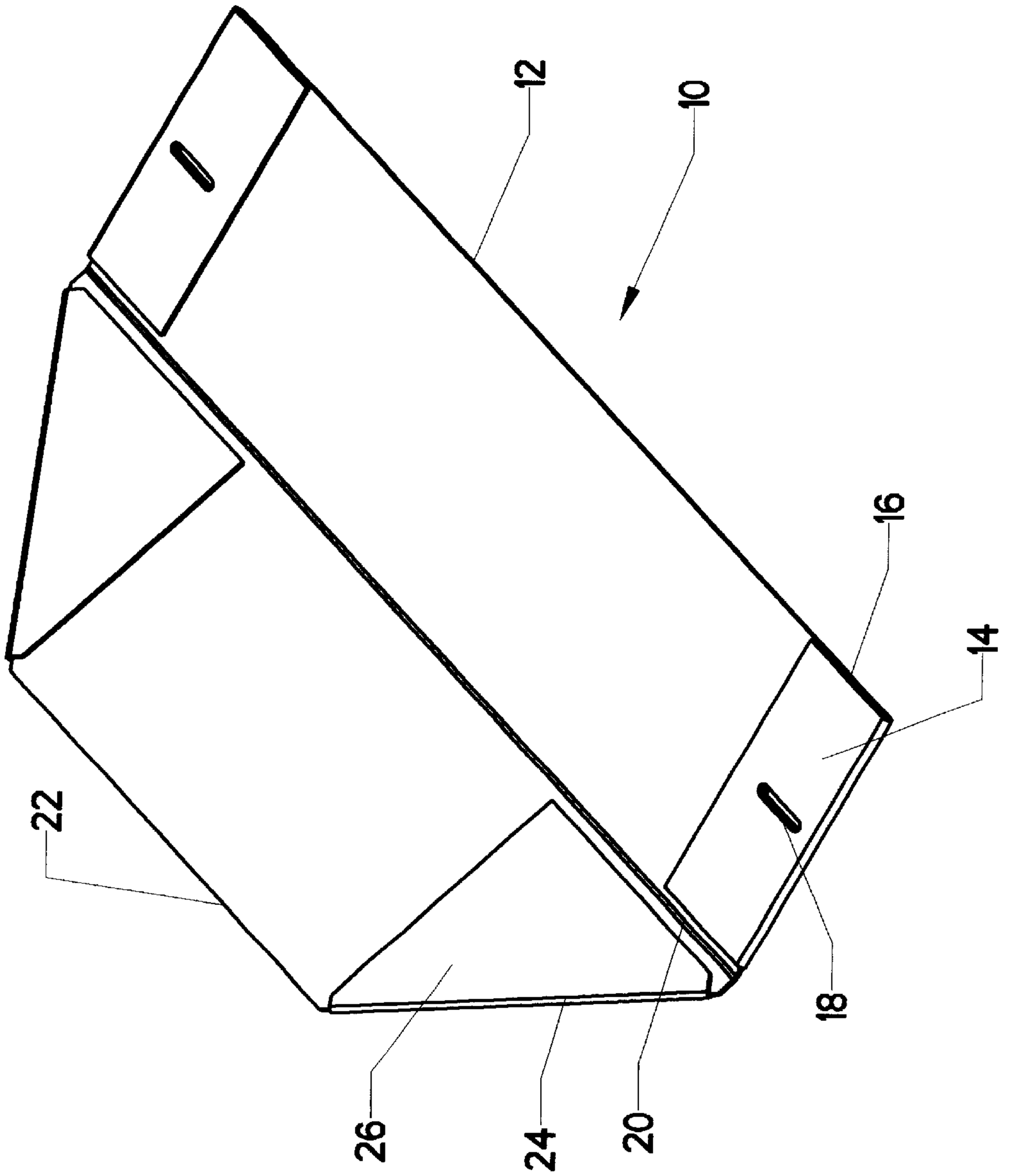


FIG. 1

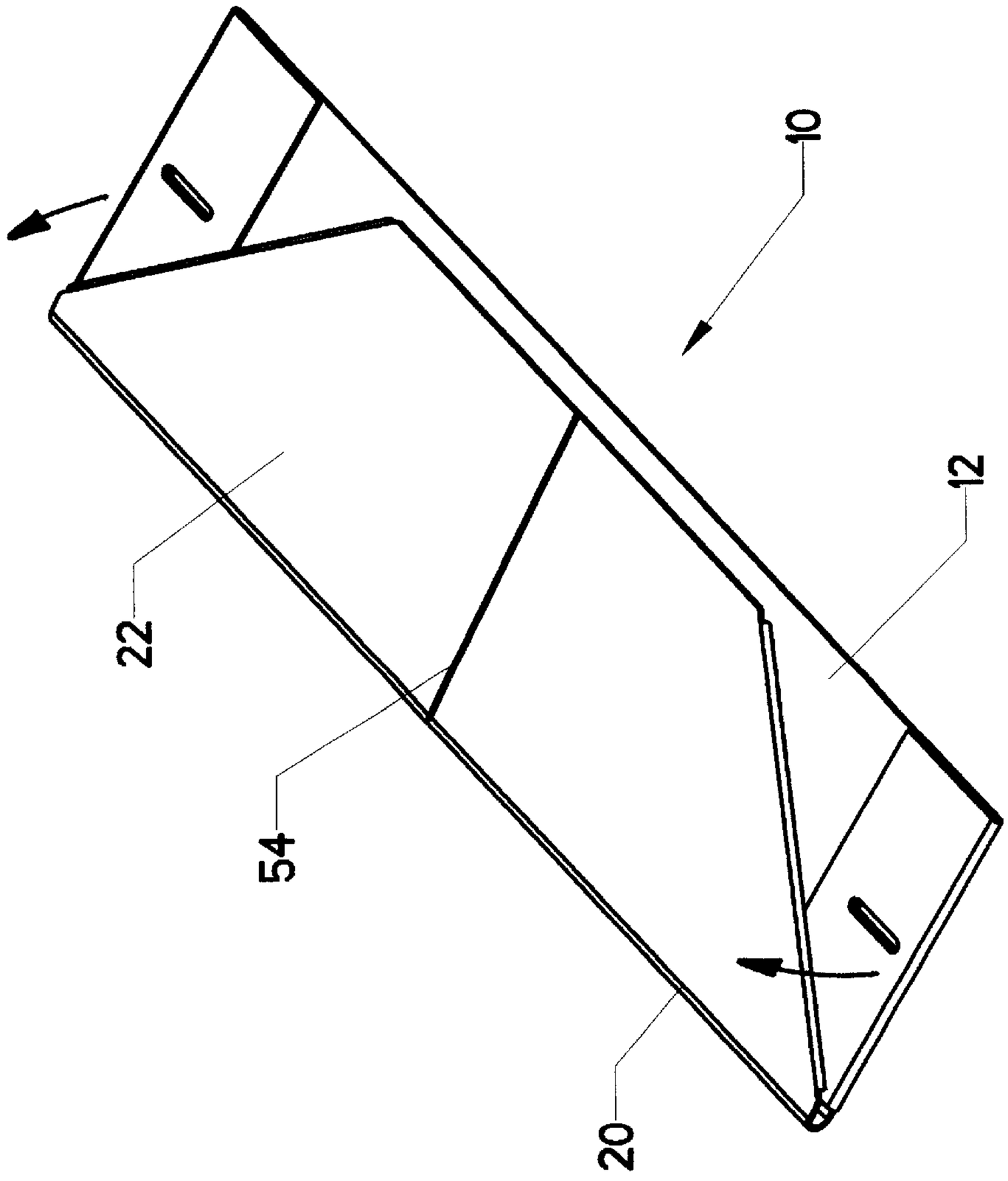


FIG. 2

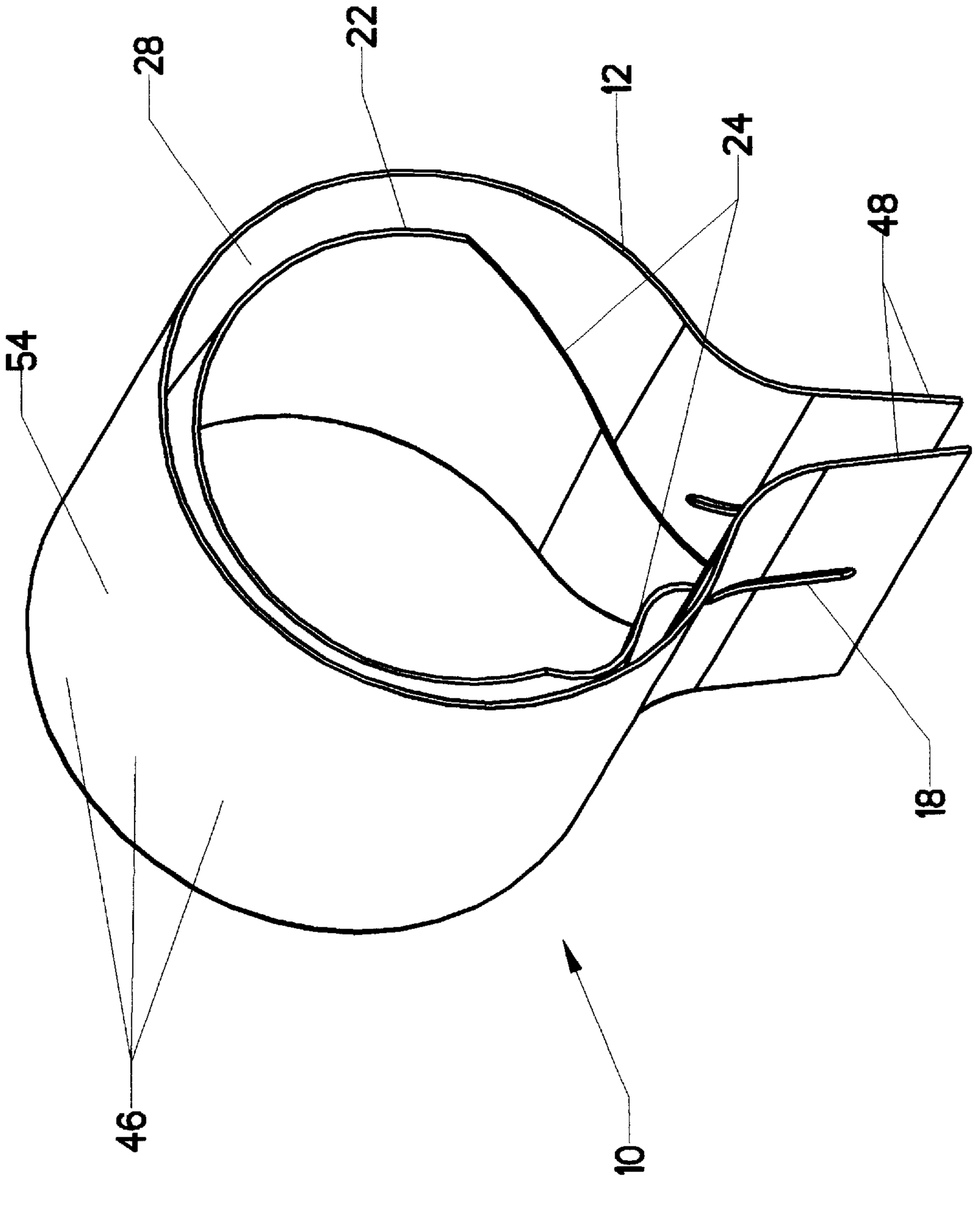


FIG. 3

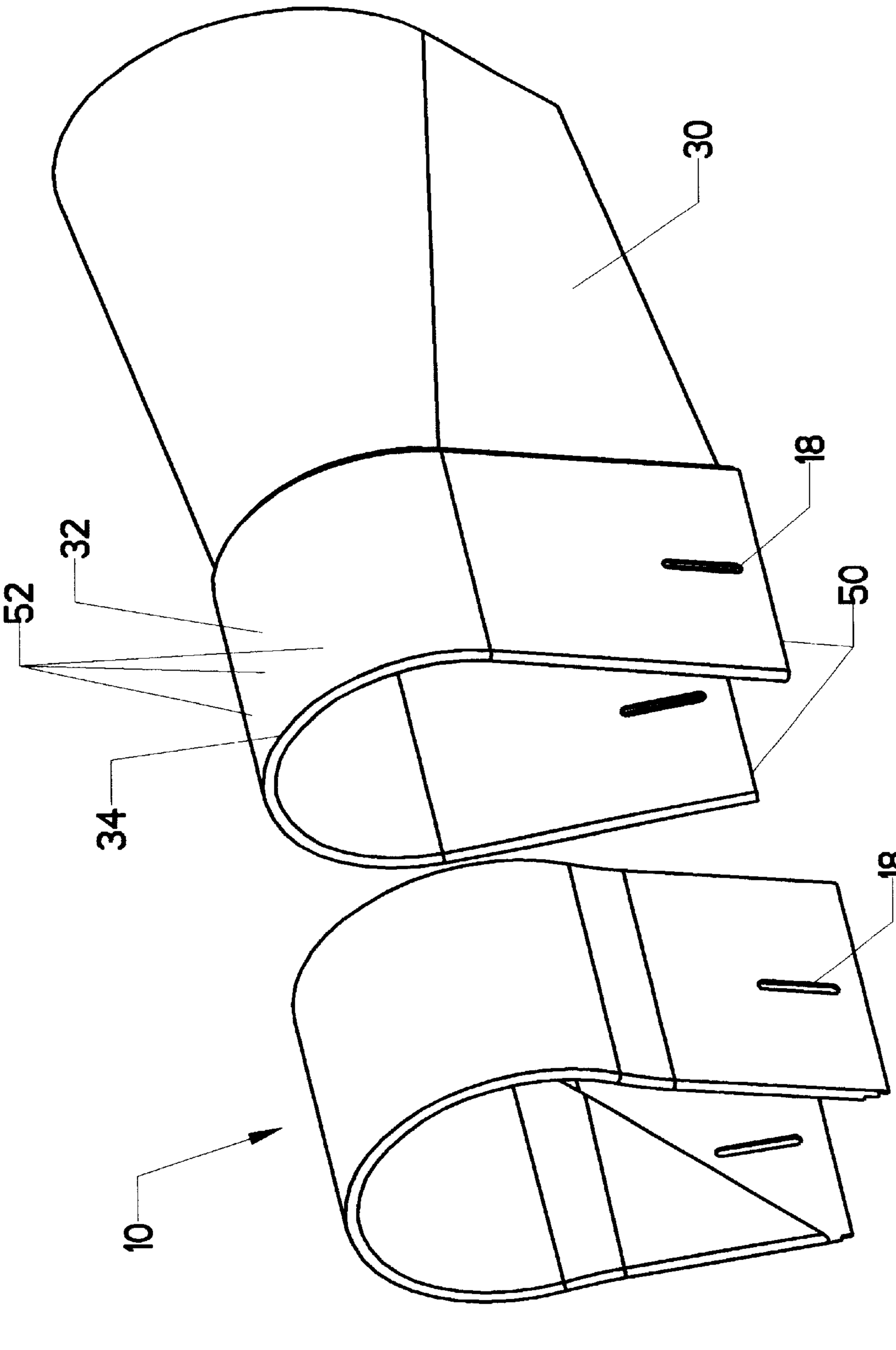


FIG. 4

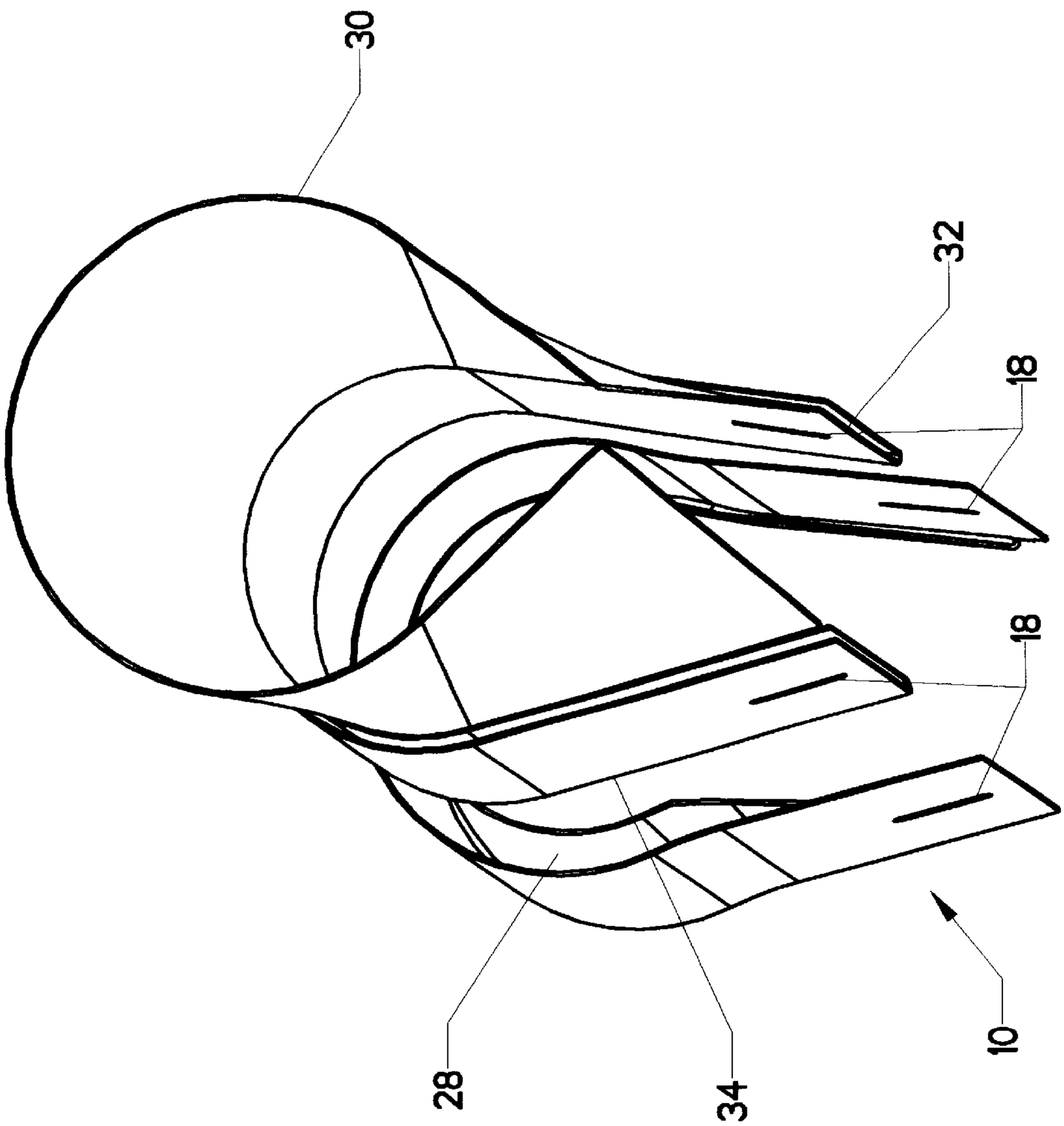


FIG. 4B

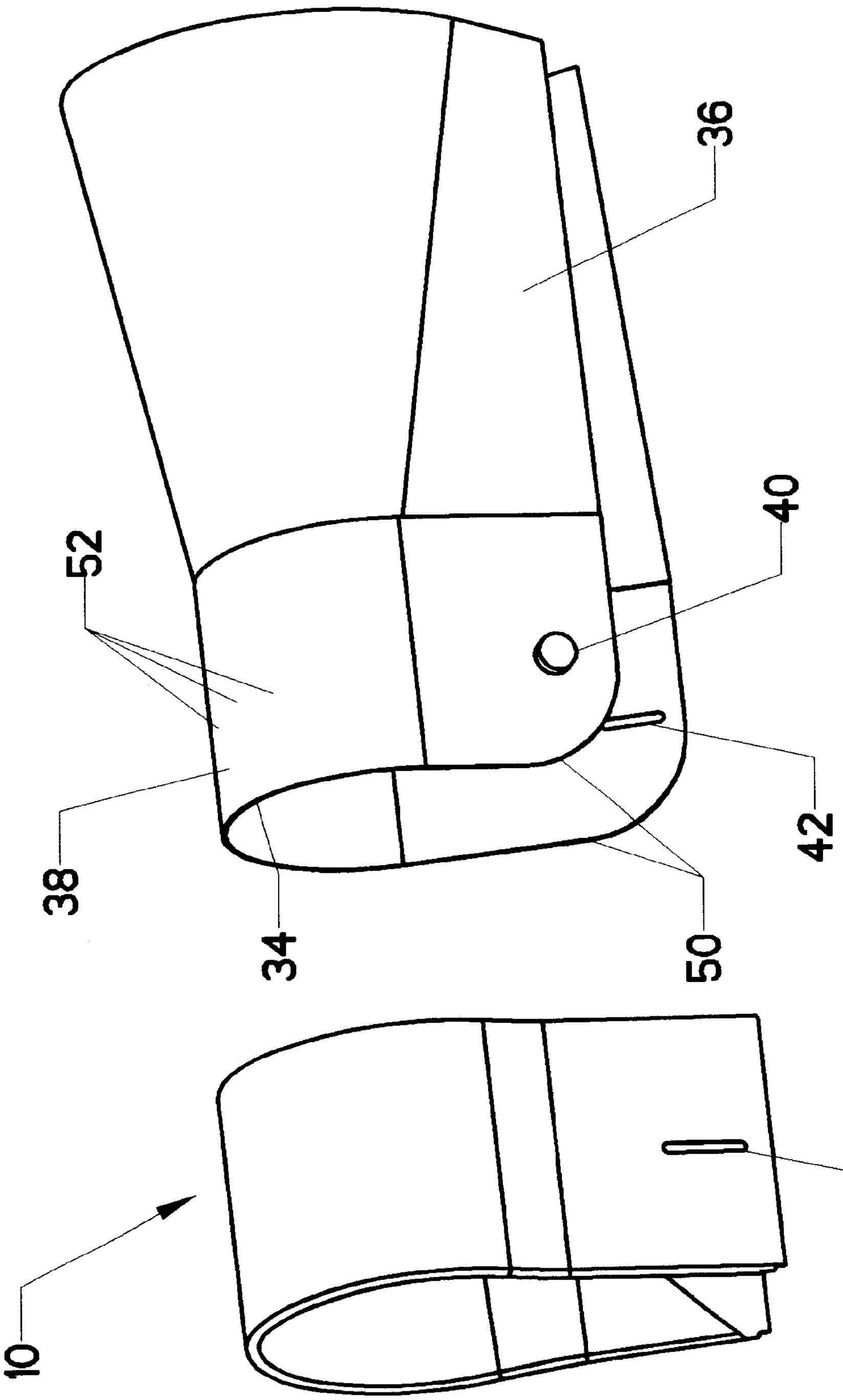


FIG. 5

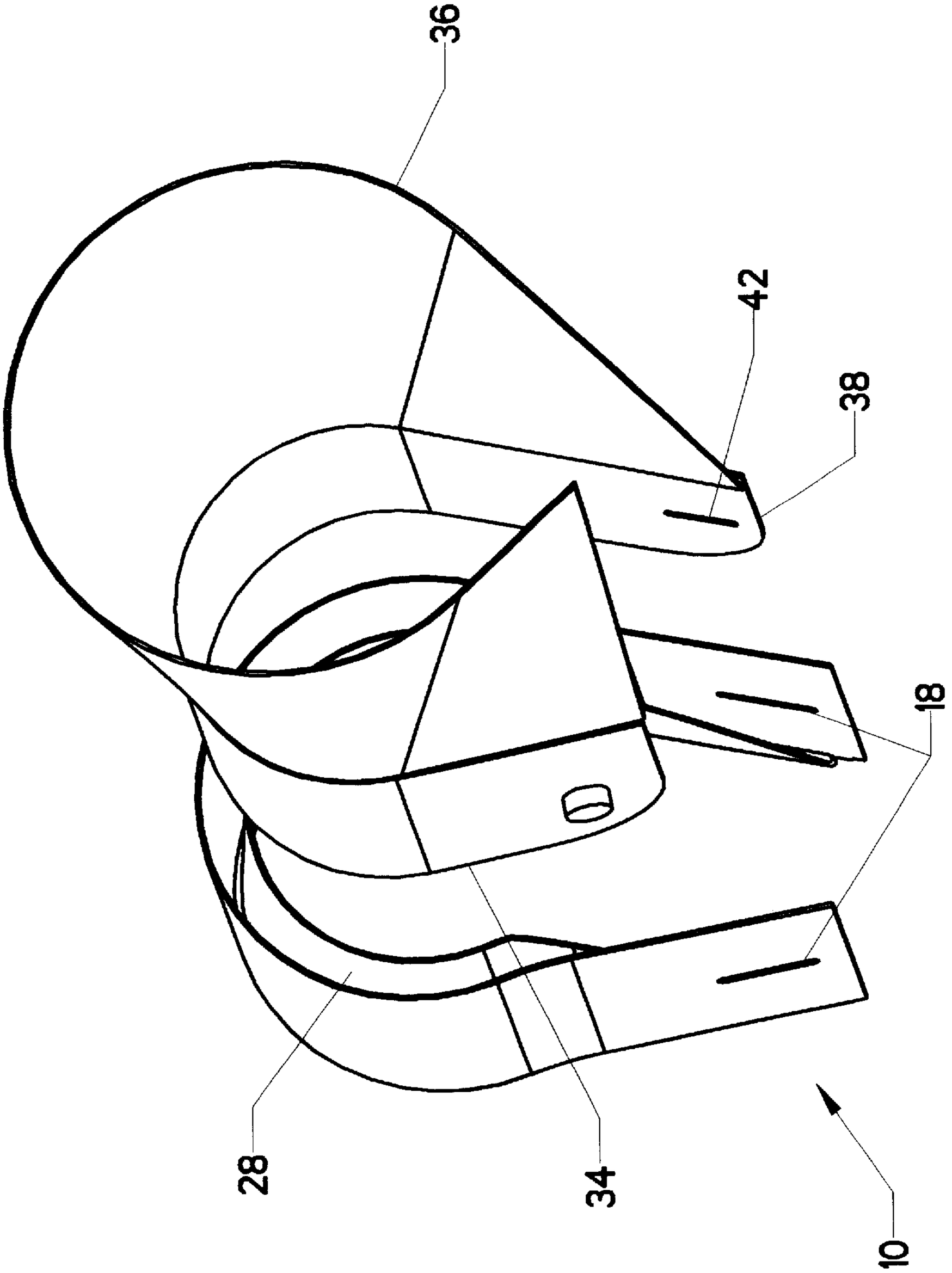


FIG. 5B

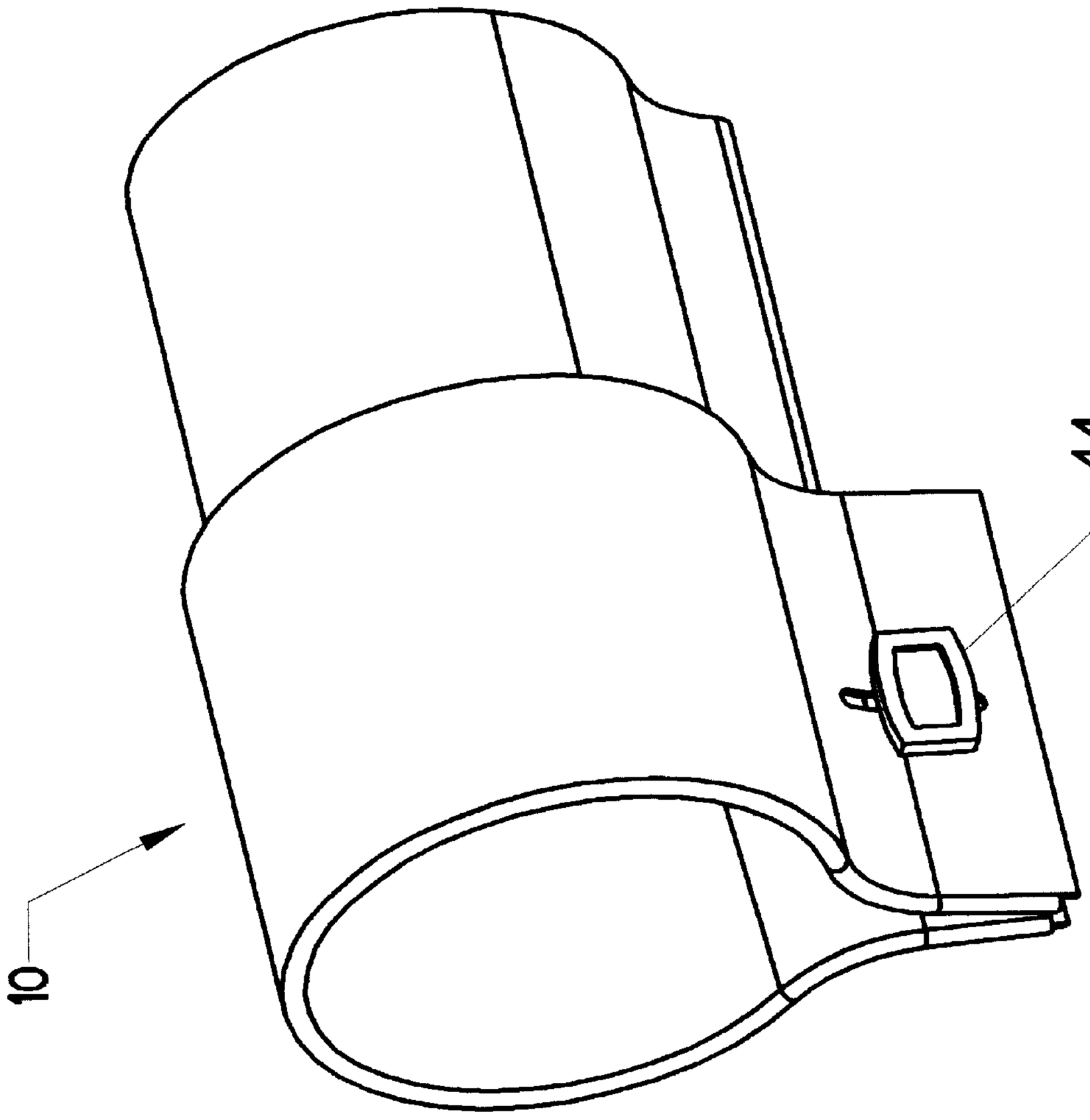


FIG. 6

AUXILIARY SHIRT CUFF

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable

MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of clothing. More specifically, the invention comprises a removable shirt cuff which can be applied to shirts having french cuffs or the more common button cuffs.

2. Description of the Related Art.

Removable shirt cuffs were once more common than they are today. Back when the typical consumer could only afford a new shirt every year or so, it was practical to provide for replaceable cuffs so that a worn out cuff would not require the replacement of the entire shirt. U.S. Pat. No. 1,314,325 to Heeren (1919) discloses one such device. The shirt is modified with a special attaching flap. A series of stud buttons arrayed around the shirt sleeve's perimeter engaged a corresponding series of button holes in the cuff. The special attaching flap serves to conceal these studs, thereby giving the visual impression of a conventional cuff. The Heeren cuff can only be used with a specially-modified shirt. It cannot be used with a shirt already having a conventional cuff.

A different approach is taken in U.S. Pat. No. 1,319,851 to Daily (1919). Like the Heeren device, the Daily cuff uses a special flap attached to the shirt sleeve—though the flap is smaller. This flap slips through an elongated slot in the cuff, folding back on a securing button.

U.S. Pat. No. 1,326,514 to Ladd (1917) uses two large buttons on the shirt sleeve, and a series of smaller fasteners arrayed around the shirt sleeve's perimeter. It results in an unconventional appearance—at least by modern standards—since it leaves a portion of the shirt sleeve material protruding beyond the bottom of the cuff (see FIG. **1**).

A detachable cuff also having an unusual appearance is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 1,349,987 to Strumph (1,349,987). This device uses an extra internal fold in the shirt sleeve to form a clevis joint. The edge of the detachable cuff which faces the sleeve then becomes the tang in the formation of a tang and clevis joint. A set of additional fasteners are disposed around the rear of the cuff to secure its perimeter to the shirt sleeve.

Another tang and clevis joint is employed in U.S. Pat. No. 1,413,897 to Calco (1922). In this variation, the clevis is formed in the rear edge of the cuff by making a second flap. The tang is actually the forward edge of the shirt sleeve. Three buttons or studs, arranged around the perimeter of the sleeve, are then employed to secure the cuff to the sleeve. A similar approach is taken in U.S. Pat. No. 1,645,833 to Torme (1924)—although without the use of the tang and clevis.

All these prior are devices result in a cuff being detachable from the shirt. However, they have inherent limitations in that:

1. All employ modified shirt sleeves, meaning that the cuff can only be used with a particularly suited shirt;
2. All employ at least three fastening points, making them cumbersome to apply;
3. None of the shirts disclosed may be used without the cuffs;
4. None of the cuffs can be applied to a shirt already having a cuff; and
5. Some of the cuffs give an unconventional appearance.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a removable auxiliary cuff which can be applied to virtually any type of shirt. It does not require any modification to the shirt. When in place, the cuff gives the appearance of a high-quality french cuff shirt. It can be applied to a shirt already having a french cuff or to one having a conventional button cuff. Different fabrics and colors can be employed to make the cuff, thereby creating a pleasing and fashionable contrast with the fabric and color of the shirt to which the cuff is applied.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is an isometric view, showing the proposed invention.

FIG. **2** is an isometric view, showing the invention in a folded state.

FIG. **3** is an isometric view, showing the invention just prior to application to a shirt sleeve.

FIG. **4** is an isometric view, showing the application of the invention to a french cuff shirt;

FIG. **4**B is an isometric view, showing the application of the invention to a french cuff shirt from a different perspective;

FIG. **5** is an isometric view, showing the application of the invention to a button cuff shirt;

FIG. **5**B is an isometric view, showing the application of the invention to a button cuff shirt from a different perspective; and

FIG. **6** is an isometric view, showing the invention as it appears when installed.

REFERENCE NUMERALS IN THE DRAWINGS

10	auxiliary shirt cuff	12	main body
14	cuff link flap	16	stiffener
18	cuff link hole	20	first fold
22	clevis flap	24	bevel
26	bevel flap	28	clevis gap
30	french cuff shirt	32	french cuff
34	leading edge	36	button cuff shirt
38	button cuff	40	button
42	button hole	44	cuff link
46	upper cuff region	48	descending cuff tab
50	descending tab	52	upper region
54	second fold		

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. **1** shows the present invention as it is being formed. Auxiliary shirt cuff **10** has main body **12**, which is a rectangular piece of flat fabric. Clevis flap **22** is joined to main body **12** along first fold **20**. Those skilled in the art will

appreciate that main body **12** and clevis flap **22** are easily made from one piece of fabric.

Clevis flap **22** is typically formed in the shape of a trapezoid. The two non-parallel sides have bevels **24**, so that the angle formed between first fold **20** and the two bevels **24** is approximately **45** degrees. Bevels **24** may optionally also feature bevel flaps **26**, which are folded flat clevis flap **22**. Bevel flaps **26** provide extra rigidity to bevels **24**. They are advantageous for certain thinner fabrics, but are often not needed.

The two short sides of main body **12** are formed into cuff link flaps **14**. These features provide reinforcement around cufflink holes **18**. It is also possible to insert stiffeners **16** into cuff link flaps **14**. These stiffeners—which are typically made of thin plastic—help keep the outer edges of cuff link flaps **14** rigid, which can give the folded cuff a neater appearance. Those skilled in the art will realize that cufflink flaps **14** and bevel flaps **26** can be easily sewn in place.

FIG. **2** shows auxiliary shirt cuff **10** with clevis flap **22** having been folded back against main body **12**. As all the components are made of thin and flexible fabric, it is common for auxiliary shirt cuff **10** to lay flat as shown. In this state, numerous versions of the invention can be stacked flat in a clothes drawer.

When the user desires to affix auxiliary shirt cuff **10** to a shirt, he or she folds auxiliary shirt cuff **10** as shown by the two arrows, with the fold generally being centered on second fold **54**.

FIG. **3** shows auxiliary shirt cuff **10** after the completion of second fold **54**. The reader will observe that second fold **54** is not sharp. Instead, second fold **54** creates upper cuff region **46**, having a generally arcuate shape, and two descending tabs **48**. Clevis flap **22** is also formed into a generally arcuate shape, with the distance between clevis flap **22** and main body **12** forming clevis gap **28**. Clevis gap **28**, of course, also has an arcuate shape.

The reader will observe that bevels **24** are seen in the non-parallel sides of clevis flap **22** (the version illustrated in FIG. **3** does not have bevel flaps **26** attached to bevels **24**). Bevels **24** carry out an important function. Once the invention is formed into approximately the state shown in FIG. **3**, the user must push auxiliary shirt cuff **10** onto a conventional shirt cuff by pushing the leading edge of the shirt cuff into clevis gap **28**. Frictional forces will obviously exist between the shirt cuff and the fabric of auxiliary shirt cuff **10**. Main body **12** will slide outside the perimeter of the conventional shirt cuff. Clevis flap **22** will slide inside the perimeter of the conventional shirt cuff. The use of bevels **24** means that only a percentage of the entire perimeter of clevis flap **22** need be initially introduced against the inner surface of the conventional shirt cuff. As auxiliary shirt cuff **10** is worked further and further onto the conventional shirt cuff, a greater and greater surface area of clevis flap **22** makes contact. This gradual introduction of surface contact aids in the installation of the device. While the device could function without bevels **24**, it would be significantly more difficult to install. Accordingly, the version having bevels **24** is the preferred embodiment.

FIG. **4** shows the installation of auxiliary shirt cuff **10** on french cuff shirt **30**. The reader will observe that french cuff shirt **30** has french cuff **32**, which comprises upper region **52**, two descending tabs **50**, and two cufflink holes **18**. Leading edge **34** has a generally arcuate shape near its top, and two essentially linear regions descending down descending tabs **50**. The user must install auxiliary shirt cuff **10** by aligning the two cufflink holes in auxiliary shirt cuff **10** with the two cufflink holes in french cuff **34**.

FIG. **4**B shows the installation from another perspective. The reader will observe that as auxiliary shirt cuff **10** is pressed onto french cuff **32**, leading edge **34** will slide into clevis gap **28**. Once leading edge **34** is placed firmly within clevis gap **28**, all four cuff link holes **18** are aligned and a cuff link is placed through the holes to lock the assembly in place. The completed assembly then takes on the appearance depicted in FIG. **6**, with auxiliary shirt cuff **10** being held in place by cufflink **44**. Once secured in place, an observer cannot discern the fact that auxiliary shirt cuff **10** is not an integral part of the shirt.

FIG. **5** shows the installation of auxiliary shirt cuff **10** on button cuff shirt **36**. Button cuff shirt **36** has button cuff **38**, which comprises upper region **52**, two descending tabs **50**, button hole **42**, and button **40**. Leading edge **34** has a generally arcuate shape near its top, and two essentially linear regions descending down descending tabs **50**. Prior to installation, it is important that the user pull the descending tab **50** having button hole **42** down below the descending tab **50** having button **40**—as shown.

FIG. **5**B shows the installation from another perspective. The reader will observe that as auxiliary shirt cuff **10** is pressed onto button cuff **38**, leading edge **34** will slide into clevis gap **28**. Once leading edge **34** is placed firmly within clevis gap **28**, the two cuff link holes **18** are aligned with button hole **42** and a cufflink is placed through the holes to lock the assembly in place. The completed assembly then takes on the appearance depicted in FIG. **6**, with auxiliary shirt cuff **10** being held in place by cufflink **44**. As with the previously described installation on a french cuff shirt, an observer cannot discern the fact that auxiliary shirt cuff **10** is not an integral part of the shirt.

The use of auxiliary shirt cuff **10** allows many practical and stylistic advantages. These include the following:

1. A worn out or stained cuff can be covered, thereby saving an otherwise ruined shirt;
2. Different colors and patterns can be used in manufacturing auxiliary shirt cuff **10**, allowing a user to express his or her own personal style; and
3. A button cuff shirt can be temporarily converted into a french cuff shirt, without destroying its utility as a button cuff shirt.

Although the preceding description contains significant detail, it should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but rather as providing illustrations of the preferred embodiment of the invention. Thus, the scope of the invention should be fixed by the following claims, rather than by the examples given.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. An auxiliary shirt cuff designed to allow a user to attach said auxiliary shirt cuff to a french cuff on a shirt, wherein said french cuff includes an arcuate leading edge, an upper region, a first descending tab, a second descending tab, a first cuff link hole passing completely through said first descending tab, and a second cuff link hole passing completely through said second descending tab, wherein said auxiliary shirt cuff comprises:

a. a main body;

b. a clevis flap, attached to said main body by a first fold, wherein said clevis flap is folded back over said main body to form a clevis gap between said main body and said clevis flap, and wherein said clevis flap and said main body then undergo a second non-sharp fold to form an arcuate upper cuff region, a first descending cuff tab, and a second descending cuff tab;

c. wherein said main body, said clevis flap, and said clevis gap are all formed into an arc approximating the shape

of said arcuate leading edge of said french cuff, wherein said clevis flap has a radius which is smaller than the radius of said arcuate leading edge of said french cuff and wherein said main body has a radius which is larger than the radius of said arcuate leading edge of said french cuff, so that when said user presses said removable auxiliary shirt cuff onto said french cuff said arcuate edge on said french cuff fits within said clevis gap;

d. wherein said first descending cuff tab opens into a first cuff link hole passing completely therethrough; and

e. wherein said second descending cuff tab opens into a second cuff link hole passing completely therethrough, so that when said user pushes said arcuate leading edge on said french cuff within said clevis gap, said first cufflink hole in said first descending tab can be aligned with said first cuff link hole in said first descending cuff tab, and said second cuff link hole in said second descending tab can be aligned with said second cuff link hole in said second descending cuff tab.

2. A device as recited in claim **1**, wherein:

a. said clevis flap is formed in the shape of a trapezoid, having a first side, a second side, a third side, and fourth side;

b. said first side lies on said first fold;

c. said third side is distal to said first fold and is parallel to said first side;

d. said second side has a first portion which is proximate said first fold and a second portion which is distal to said first fold, and wherein the angle formed between said first side and said second side is less than seventy-five degrees; and

e. said fourth side has a first portion which is proximate said first fold and a second portion which is distal to said first fold, and wherein the angle formed between said first side and said fourth side is less than seventy-five degrees, so that the width of said clevis flap tapers significantly proceeding from said fold to said third side, so as to reduce initial frictional contact between said clevis flap and said french cuff during installation of said auxiliary shirt cuff.

3. An auxiliary shirt cuff designed to allow a user to attach said auxiliary shirt cuff to a button cuff on a shirt, wherein said button cuff includes an arcuate leading edge, an upper region, a first descending tab, a second descending tab, a button hole passing completely through said first descending tab, and a button mounted on said second descending tab, wherein said auxiliary shirt cuff comprises:

a. a main body;

b. a clevis flap, attached to said main body by a first fold, wherein said clevis flap is folded back over said main body to form a clevis gap between said main body and said clevis flap, and wherein said clevis flap and said main body then undergo a second non-sharp fold to form an arcuate upper cuff region, a first descending cuff tab, and a second descending cuff tab;

c. wherein said main body, said clevis flap, and said clevis gap are all formed into an arc approximating the shape of said arcuate leading edge of said button cuff, wherein said clevis flap has a radius which is smaller than the radius of said arcuate leading edge of said button cuff and wherein said main body has a radius which is larger than the radius of said arcuate leading edge of said button cuff, so that when said user presses said removable auxiliary shirt cuff onto said button cuff said arcuate edge of said button cuff fits within said clevis gap;

d. wherein said first descending cuff tab opens into a first cuff link hole passing completely therethrough; and

e. wherein said second descending cuff tab opens into a second cuff link hole passing completely therethrough, so that when said user pushes said arcuate leading edge of said button cuff within said clevis gap, said button hole in said first descending tab can be aligned with said first cuff link hole in said first descending cuff tab and said second cuff link hole in said second descending cuff tab.

4. A device as recited in claim **3**, wherein:

a. said clevis flap is formed in the shape of a trapezoid, having a first side, a second side, a third side, and fourth side;

b. said first side lies on said first fold;

c. said third side is distal to said first fold and is parallel to said first side;

d. said second side has a first portion which is proximate said first fold and a second portion which is distal to said first fold, and wherein the angle formed between said first side and said second side is less than seventy-five degrees; and

e. said fourth side has a first portion which is proximate said first fold and a second portion which is distal to said first fold, and wherein the angle formed between said first side and said fourth side is less than seventy-five degrees, so that the width of said clevis flap tapers significantly proceeding from said fold to said third side, so as to reduce initial frictional contact between said clevis flap and said button cuff during installation of said auxiliary shirt cuff.

* * * * *